

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
April 22, 2013

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Freudmann, Keane, Kochenburger, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus, Ryan, Schaefer, Shapiro

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Freudmann seconded to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2013 meeting as presented. The motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Kochenburger who abstained. Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2013 special meeting as presented. The motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Keane and Mr. Kochenburger who abstained. Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Moran seconded to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2013 special meeting as presented. The motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Ryan who abstained.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, asked if the Director of Building and Housing does inspections and a series of other questions. (Statement attached)

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, objected to the hiring of special legal counsel for water and wastewater issues.

Omar Kouatly, Fern Road, distributed pictures of garbage on the property of the old bus garage on Fern Road and asked the Town to address the eyesore. Mr. Kouatly expressed his appreciation for the Solarize Mansfield project which the Town is participating in. (Statement attached)

Alison Hilding, Southwood Road, asked if any of the Storrs Center apartments have been allocated for affordable housing. Ms. Hilding also asked the Council to consider taking a position on the State's initiative allowing undocumented residents to apply for motor vehicle licenses and to support the efforts to enact immigration reform on the federal level.

Art Smith, Mulberry Road, stated his belief the reason his FOI request was published in the packet is because he copied the entire Council. Mr. Smith also asked if counsel with additional Connecticut experience and consent decree experience would be more beneficial when dealing with water and wastewater issues. (Submitted email attached)

Roger Roberge, Woodland Road, stated he was told the Storrs Center Project would not contain affordable housing.

Toivo Kask, Agronomy Road, questioned why with the budget shortfall there has been no talk of layoffs.

William Jordan, Ashford resident and member of the Regional Council of Carpenters, urged Council members to attend the next meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee for Responsible Contracting to hear from speakers from the skilled trades.

IV. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

In addition to his report, the Town Manager offered the following comments and observations;

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- A copy of the term sheet from legal counsel handling the Kirby Mill Hydro Electric project will be provided to Council members.
- Management is still negotiating with the law firm of Pannone, Lopes, Deveraux and West, LLC
- The Director of Building and Housing does do field inspections on a regular basis
- The FOIA request of Mr. Smith was included in the packet as it was a communication sent to all Council members
- Town staff will research the cost to maintain the additional pump station near the post office
- Town staff will look at the garbage at the old bus garage on Fern Road. The Town is waiting to hear from a potentially interested private party
- Storrs Center does not have any affordable housing set asides

Mr. Freudmann asked why the Town has taken over the maintenance of the pump station near the post office. The Town Manager will provide the history.

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to move Item 5, Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis Presentation of Mansfield Advocates for Children Data Concordance Report, as the next item of business following the reports and comments of Council members.

The motion passed unanimously.

V. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Paterson has attended a number of Solarize Mansfield events and thanked Ginny Walton for her work. The Mayor also attended the Youth Service Award ceremony which honors the young mentors who work with the department to provide opportunities and experiences for the Town's young residents. Mayor Paterson participated in the ribbon cutting for parking garage and noted the positive comments from Commissioner Esty regarding the Town's new charging stations and the Hertz hourly rental program. She also noted the police academy at the Senior Center has been well attended.

Mr. Shapiro noted in response to discussions regarding a recent FOIA request that all request are public information.

Mr. Paulhus reminded those present the Little League opening day is May 4th.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Storrs Center Update

Town Manager Matt Hart announced Geno's Grille is now open and the leasing of the apartments continues.

Mr. Freudmann asked if the \$60,000 set aside for legal fees is shown in the Storrs Center Reserve Fund of the budget. The Town Manager will provide the location of the item in the budget.

2. Community/Campus Relations

Operational plans are in place for the 4th weekend in April. Recent weekends have been fairly quiet.

3. Community Water/Wastewater Issues

UConn consultants are working to complete the EIE for submission to the Board of Trustees after which time a preferred provider will be chosen by UConn and the Town.

4. Appointment of Special Legal Counsel for Water and Wastewater Project

Town Management is working on an agreement with the law firm of Pannone, Lopes, Deveraux and West, LLC within the guidelines provided by the Council. This agreement will be ready for Council review at the next meeting. Council members discussed the level of expertise in the subject needed to provide adequate service to the Town as well as the need for political insight. The Town Manager will review relevant historic records pertaining to water jurisdiction between the Town and the University.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

5. Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis Presentation of Mansfield Advocates for Children Data Concordance Report

Bill Waite, Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis Manager of Research Projects, and Kathleen Krider, Early Childhood Education Coordinator reviewed the MAC Data Concordance Report. Mr. Waite noted a remarkable consistency among responders who largely indicated public transportation, places to meet people, reliable neighbors and playgrounds are important to them.

6. Department of Transportation Master Municipal Agreement for Construction Projects
Mr. Shapiro moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to approve the following resolution: RESOLVED, that Matthew W. Hart, Town Manager, be, and hereby is, authorized to sign the agreement entitled: Master Municipal Agreement for Constructions Projects. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Proclamation Designating May as Bike Month in Mansfield

Mr. Schaefer moved and Ms. Moran seconded, effective April 22, 2013, to authorize the Mayor to issue the attached Proclamation Designating May as Bike Month in Mansfield. (Attached).

Motion passed unanimously.

8. Reappointment of Mansfield Downtown Partnership Board of Directors

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded, to reappoint Councilor Christopher Paulhus to the Board of Directors of the Mansfield Downtown Partnership, for a term commencing on July 1, 2013 and expiring on June 30, 2016.

Ms. Keane moved to amend the motion to make it concurrent with Mr. Paulhus term on the Council, until November 11, 2013.

The amendment passed unanimously. The amended motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Paulhus who abstained.

VIII. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments offered.

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Chair of the Committee on Committees Peter Kochenburger offered the following Committee recommendations:

- The appointment of Emile Poirier to the Housing Code Board of Appeals as an alternate for a term ending 4/08/2016
- The reappointments of Philip Barry and William Simpson to the University-Town Relations Committee for terms ending 3/03/2014
- The appointment of Shepherd Stearns to the Agriculture Committee for a term ending 10/12/2014

The motion to approve the recommendations passed unanimously.

X. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATONS

9. A. Hilding re: Budget

10. T. Long re: Support RCO

11. T. Luciano re: Mansfield Minutes

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12. T. Luciano re: Regional Water Authority
13. M. Stanton re: A. Smith FOI Request

XI. FUTURE AGENDA

The Town Manager will add the Region 19 snow removal contract to a May agenda.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m.
The motion passed unanimously.